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**NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF  
EX PARTE PRESENTATION**

February 25, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Portals II, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

*Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 24, 2005, Jeffrey S. Lanning, and I, on behalf of the United States Telecom Association (USTA), along with Robert D. Binder (by phone) of Citizens/Frontier Telephone, a USTA member company, met with Scott Bergmann, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, regarding the above-referenced matter.

The purpose of this meeting was to urge the Commission to strengthen the criteria to be certified as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) and receive federal universal service support. In particular, USTA made the following points: (i) the designation of multiple ETCs for receipt of high-cost support has a significant impact on preservation of federal universal service funding; (ii) the Commission has the authority to and should impose mandatory requirements by which states must assess ETC applicants; (iii) additional ETCs in rural areas should only be designated following a rigorous public interest test, based on strengthened standards; (iv) additional ETCs should be designated at a study area level and should be required to serve the entire study area; and (v) all ETCs should certify annually their use of universal service funds and their compliance with all designation requirements.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, this letter is being filed electronically with your office.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James W. Olson", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

James W. Olson  
Vice President Law and General Counsel

cc: Scott Bergmann